Chapter 8 Fruits sweeten when burned

SANDA

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SEEING HER FLEE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, SANDA'S ...!?

(daruma)

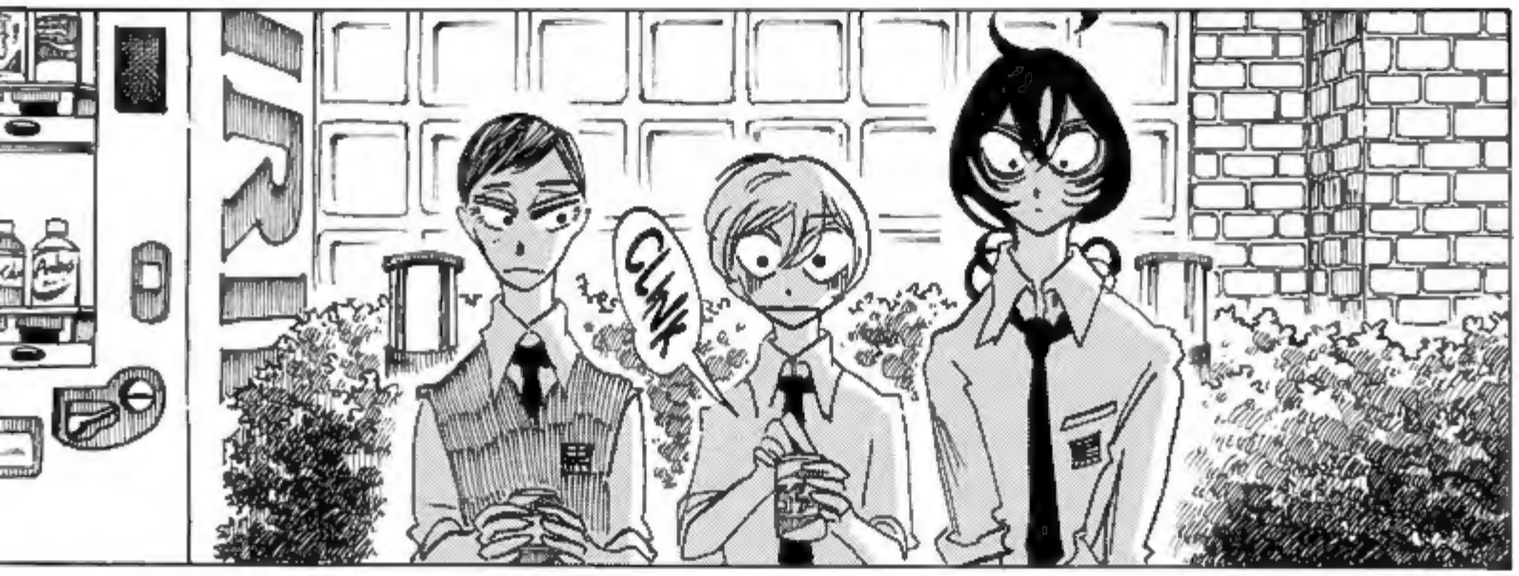
I'M GONNA RUN AFTER HER!!
SANTA WILL BE MUCH FASTER!!
I JUST NEED TO CATCH HER SOME-HOW...

I'M GETTING A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WHY WOULD ONO RUN AWAY!?
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER!?
JUMP
YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER HER?
FUYU-MURA!

TH
UD
5
After that,
...
みまもり自動販売機
A BIZARRE NIGHT LIKE THIS CALLS FOR SOMETHING SWEET AND WARM.
DRINKS ON ME.
we didn't see Ono again, even though we looked through the whole school for a while.

Sign: Mo-ni-to-ring Vending Machine

It feels like none of us have the courage to bring up Ono right now. Fuyumura in particular hasn't said a word since then.
...RIGHT?
...
SAY SOME-THING, PLEASE.
Must've been a shock to see a friend she's been trying so hard to find run away like that...
Or maybe she's mad that I let her get away?
She probably hasn't fully registered everything that's just happened.


CLINK

YOU DID THAT!! DON'T SPILL IT ON ME TOO!
WHAT THE-!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AMAYA!?

SPILL
YOU'RE NOT DRINKING IT AT ALL, SANDA!

YOU GOT A HANDKERCHIEF, FUYUMURA!?
S-SANDPA!?
TRIED MIXING UP SANDA AND GRANDPA. I NEEDED TO GIVE IT A NAME.
BUT I'M GLAD THIS WASN'T TOMATO JUICE OR ANYTHING. OTHERWISE YOU WOULD'VE TURNED INTO SANDPA AGAIN.
MY SHIRT'S ALL MESSED UP...
I HATE IT!

HEH...
EHE-HEHE... MAN, ARE YOU TWO IDIOTS OR WHAT? HEHE...
HUHEHE... BACK THEN... THAT REALLY WAS—
IT WAS ONO... WASN'T IT?
THAT HAD TO BE ONO, RIGHT? IT'S LIKE I'M DREAMING...

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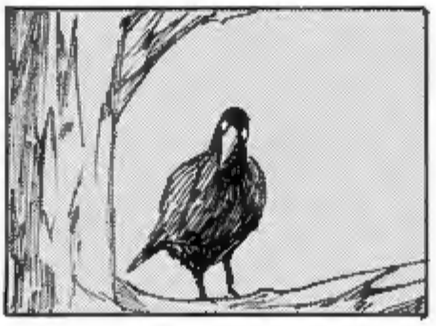

That's right.

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She didn't even care...
...about her running away, because to Fuyumura, Ono is...

She was alive.
She was actually there.
Ono.

BUT WHY'D SHE RUN AWAY!?
YEAH, THAT'S THE BIG QUES-TION.

Because sometimes, it sounds like they're crying.

And so, sitting beside her the entire time, I intently listened to it.

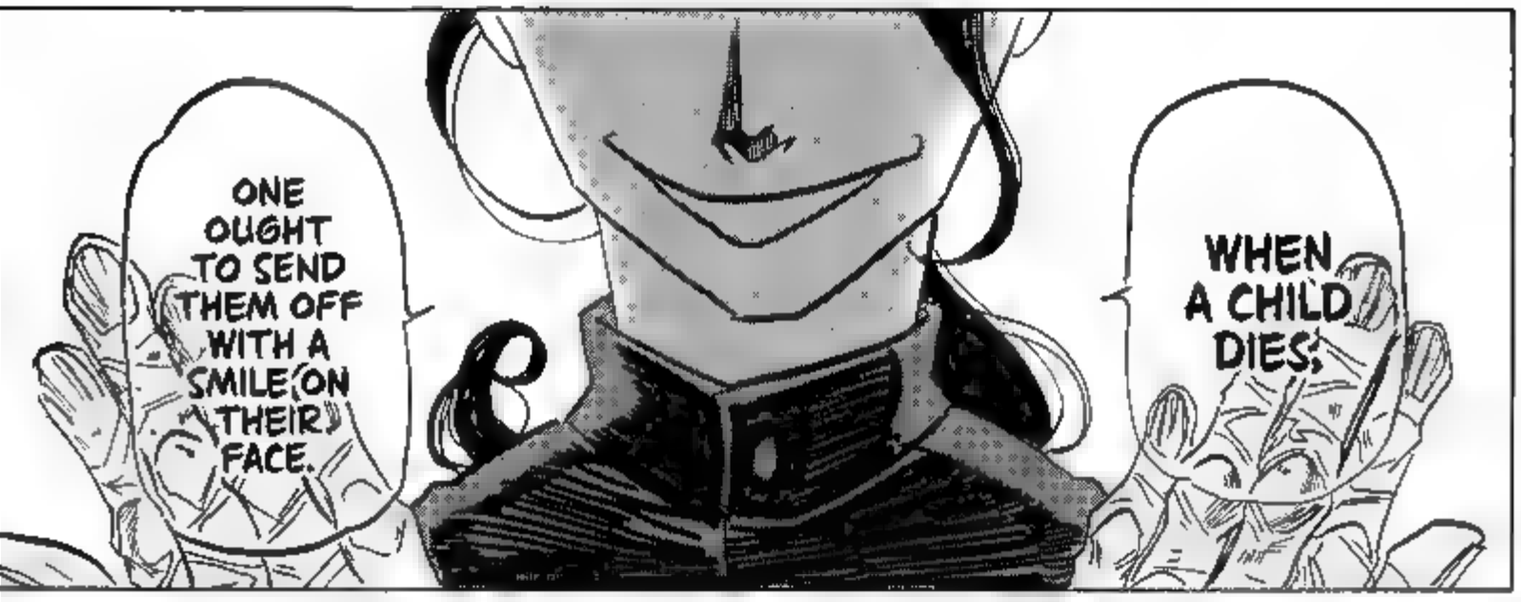
Hearing a girl laugh honestly sends chills down my spine sometimes.
...
SHE'S AS WEIRD AS EVER.

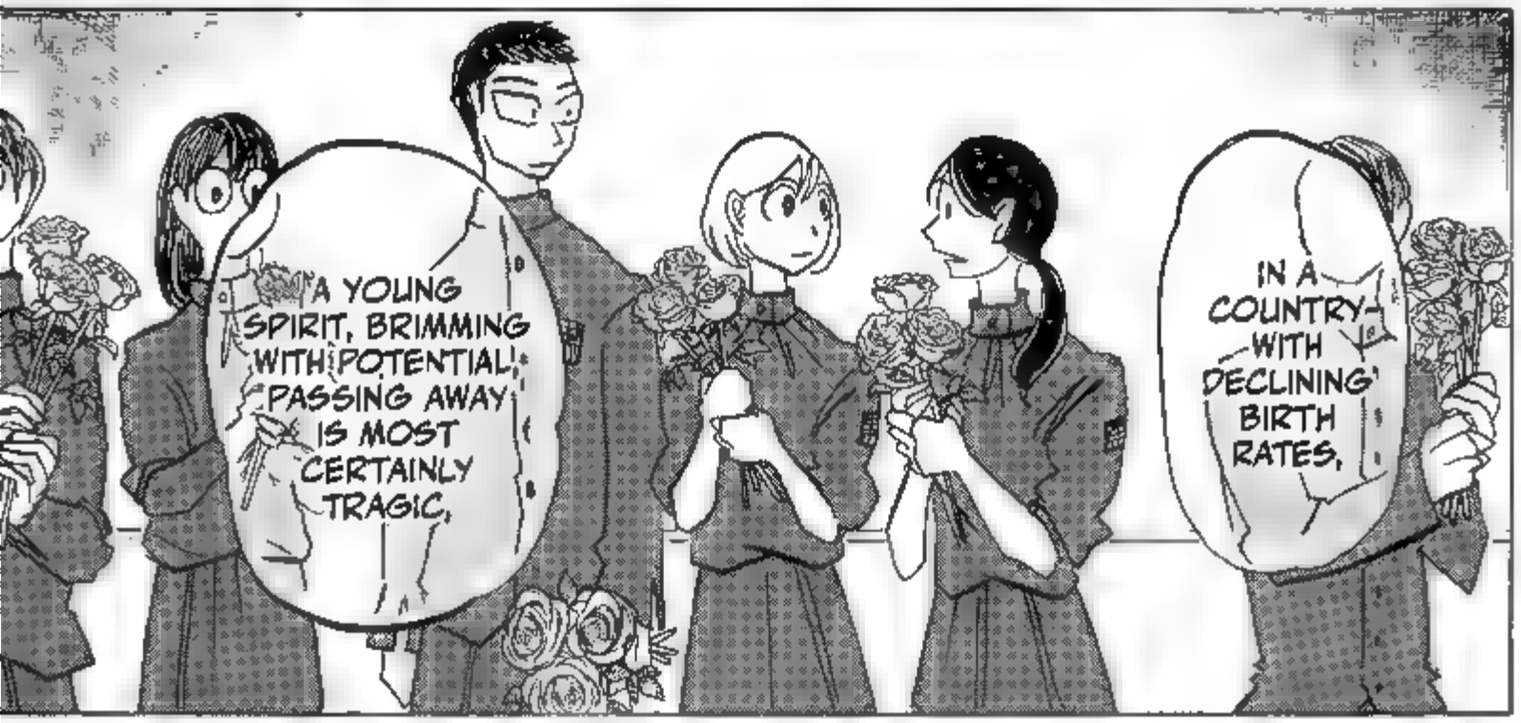
FOR ONO!?
HUH!? A SCHOOL FUNERAL...

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE WE ENCOUNTERED ONO... AND THEY DECIDE TO DO IT NOW!?
...
...
YEAH. SEEMS LIKE HER FAMILY DIDN'T HOLD A FUNERAL, SO THEY DECIDED TO HOLD ONE FOR HER HERE.
A-AND... IT'S HAPPENING NOW!?
THE PRINCIPAL'S TOLD US TO GATHER AT THE GYM AFTER SCHOOL IN FULL FORMAL WEAR.

SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY OFF... WHAT ARE THEY HIDING!?
YEAH...
LET'S GO...!!

THE STUDENTS SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW.
EVERYTHING'S SET, THEN.
DO YOU KNOW WHY WE WEAR RED INSTEAD OF BLACK IN FUNERALS FOR MINORS NOW?
THOSE CLOTHES SEEM RATHER WELL-MADE.
I DON'T... I DID HEAR THAT WE USED TO WEAR ALL BLACK FOR FUNERALS...
WE PREPARED THE RED SUITS EXCLUSIVELY FOR EVENTS LIKE THIS.


ONE OUGHT TO SEND THEM OFF WITH A SMILE (ON THEIR) FACE.
WHEN A CHILD DIES,


A YOUNG SPIRIT, BRIMMING WITH POTENTIAL, PASSING AWAY IS MOST CERTAINLY TRAGIC,
IN A COUNTRY WITH DECLINING BIRTH RATES,

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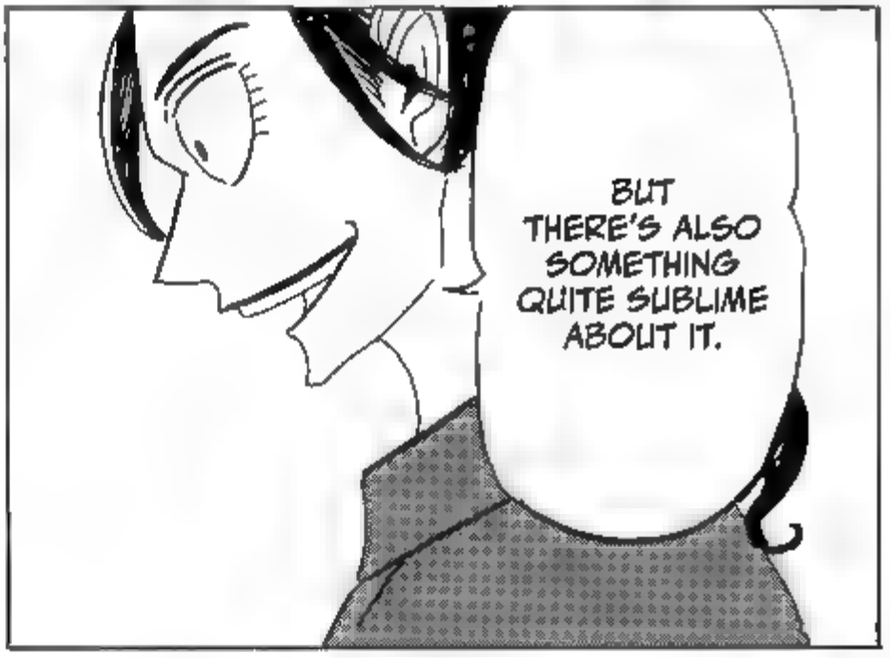
THIS IS WHY THESE FUNERALS HAVE MUSIC,
ALONG-SIDE A FEAST.


BUT THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING QUITE SUBLIME ABOUT IT.

LET US TRY OUR BEST TO MAKE THIS A SPLENDID EVENT.
FOR HER SAKE, AS WELL.

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BUT THEY SURE MADE THIS LOOK FANCY...
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE 'CELE-BRATING' IT...!

IT MIGHT BE WORTH SCOUTING AROUND.
I NEED TO LOOK FOR AN ADULT THAT'S ACTING SUSPI-CIOUSLY.

I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON FUYUMURA!!
OKAY!

I'VE ONLY STARTED TO REALIZE THIS AFTER AWAKENING AS SANTA...
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG WITH THIS SCHOOL.

AT ANY RATE, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE JOINING THEM, SINCE WEARING SOMETHING RED WILL GIVE OUT MY IDENTITY RIGHT AWAY...
OH N—
AND WHAT MIGHT YOU BE DOING HERE, SANDA?
HMM?

WE'RE GONNA BLOW IT UP.
THIS FUNERAL.

SANDA

PRESENTED BY
SPINYBACK &
DANKE FÜRS LESEN

TRANSLATED BY
VTORCH20516

TYPESET BY
JAWSH

REDRAWN BY
SUCO.EXE

QC BY
KAFKA

Spiny: https://discord.gg/BEBUcKt
Danke: https://discord.gg/zExT77hT6z